



Old Fletton Urban District Council.


ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
During the year 1967.



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OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1967)

W. R. CASHMORE (Chairman)

B. W. BROWNING

F. M. HAGGER

A. D. COLEMAN

J. W. B. TAYLOR

E. COLLINSON

H. R. VYSE

Mrs. P. FISHPOOL

G. W. WILSON

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.....T.A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Public Health Inspector.....M. A. TIGHE

To The Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Fishpool and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my tenth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District, for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

Old Fletton lies immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. It is a progressive and well maintained Urban District with good living standards.

The main industries are Brick-making, Sugar Manufacture, Engineering, Food Canning and Printing.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population of the District to have been 13,040 which was an increase of 290 over the previous year.

There were 255 live births during the year, being 8 less than in 1966 which was a record year for births. The crude birth rate was 19.6 per 1,000 of the population. When adjusted it becomes 17.1 per thousand, which closely approximates to the rate of 17.2 for England and Wales.

There were 116 deaths during the year, 68 males and 48 females. The crude death rate was 8.9 per 1,000 of the population, but when adjusted it becomes 11.9 per thousand, which is a little above the rate of 11.2 for England and Wales as a whole.

Nine deaths occurred during the year due to carcinoma of the lung or bronchus, eight of these being men, and one a woman. Of these, 2 men died in each of the age groups 45-55, 55-65 and 65-75. The other three were over 75. The association between smoking and cancer of the lung is now well known. If everybody were to give up smoking very few people would die of cancer of the lung. Doctors appreciate the risk, and about half the male doctors in Britain are now non-smokers compared with a quarter among men in the general population. Smoking is a hazard to health, and not only a cause of lung cancer. Other conditions shown to be related to smoking include chronic bronchitis, and coronary heart disease.

The sad thing is that some of the deaths due to causes possibly aggravated by smoking occur in middle age or even early middle age. Thus, in this District during 1967, of the 26 deaths due to Coronary Disease, Angina, three were in the 35-45, two in the 45-55, and seven in the 55-65 age groups.

The year was one in which the District was remarkably free from infectious disease. There were 99 cases of Measles and little else. There was one case of Typhoid Fever, but this was a patient who came from Italy incubating the disease, and later returned to that Country. There

were four new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, but there were no deaths from that disease.

The year was one which saw the completion of two projects with regard to Council Housing. The "High Density" scheme was finished, and also "Saxon Court" the second stage of the Coneygree Road flat-lets for the elderly.

The waiting list for accommodation for the elderly still continues to grow, and the Council are making further provision for this group on the new estate which is planned.

The water supply throughout the District has been very satisfactory throughout the year.

The Council's Scheme for enlarging and altering the Sewage Works and putting in a system of relief sewers continued steadily throughout the year, but not so quickly as had been hoped. Some of the improved sections have now been brought into use, but we can not feel the real benefit of what has been done until it is finished and the new processes can work as an integrated whole.

With regard to refuse collection, I am glad that arrangements have been made to remove bulky articles, and am sure that this will prove an asset from many angles.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council, and their Officers and Staff, and to my Professional Colleagues in the District, most of whom are in frequent contact with me, for the help which they have so willingly given to me throughout the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1967)	13,040
Density of persons per acre	4.3
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1967	4219
Rateable Value, 31/12/67	£623,182
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/67	£2,478

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	255
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	19.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.1
Still-births	2
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	8
Total live and still-births	257
Infant deaths	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	20
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	19
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	8.9

INFANT DEATHS

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Actual Number of Deaths	2	2	3	2	4	5
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	9.7	8.9	11.8	8.9	15.2	20
Deaths from Cancer (total)						23
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						9
Coronary Disease—angina						26
Other Heart Disease						17

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths	Per1,000 TotalBirths
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	19.6	17.1	8.9	11.9	20	8
England & Wales	—	17.2	—	11.2	18.3	14.8

Comparability Factor for Births	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.34

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	68	48	116
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	5	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8	15
18. Coronary disease, angina	19	7	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	10	7	17
21. Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	3	1	4
24. Bronchitis	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	3	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	6	3	9
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	—	4	4
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1967.

HOUSING

New housing constructed by the Council during the year was of an unusually varied nature. The Council's "High Density" scheme, Stanground, consisted of twelve terraced houses, with open front development and rear patios within high brick walls to give privacy. Two four-storey blocks of maisonettes enclosed, with the terraced houses referred to, a centrally paved square containing shrubs and trees. The maisonettes were the first domestic dwellings above two storeys in height constructed by this Council, and to that extent reflected an increasing need to utilise the remaining stock of building land as economically as possible. It will be interesting to see how the tenants of these dwellings, mainly young couples, adapt themselves to what is, in this area, an unusual mode of living. Both maisonettes and terraced houses have full central heating installed, gas or solid fuel being used in conjunction with small-bore pump-assisted hot water systems.

"Saxon Court", the second phase of Coneygree Road flatlets for the elderly, was completed during the year. The accommodation consisted of sixteen units and the Warden's flat, and to that extent was identical with the first phase, "Roman Court". There was a number of detailed improvements incorporated as a result of experience gained from the first phase, the major item being the provision of separate W.C.s to every flatlet, better clothes drying facilities, separate goods delivery room, and an improved type of cooker. I must report again, however, that in spite of this additional provision for the elderly, the waiting list for this age group continues to grow. The Council had this very much in mind when putting in hand a new estate of eighty dwellings on land between Coneygree Road and Thistle Drive; the contractor being instructed to arrange his programme so that six bungalows and eight flats for the elderly would be the first units to be completed on the estate.

Design work by the Architect selected for the Bakers Lane site continued. It was not anticipated that this work would be completed until next year in view of the size of the estate, the variety of dwelling types, and, for this area, the unusually irregular contoured site.

A Clearance Area of twelve houses on Coneygree Road went to Public Inquiry following upon the owner's appeal. The Order was confirmed by the Minister and rehousing of the occupants was completed before the end of the year.

Thirty applications for Standard Improvement Grants at a total cost of £3,195 were approved by the Council. In the main these were for terraced houses constructed around 1900, but still in a reasonably sound constructional condition.

A limited provision of money for mortgages was made by the Government during the year, and as a result the Council were able to assist twenty applicants wishing to purchase their own homes. As noted in previous years, the properties concerned tended to be those older houses on which Building Societies were less willing to lend than on newer properties.

Another avenue by which the Council assisted intending house owners was by the sale of the Council's own houses to sitting tenants and nine such sales were made.

As I predicted last year the number of private house completions fell, due to the completion of Park Farm Estate. There was a reduction of 37 from the 101 completed in 1966. Council house completions at 53 made a total for all types of 117, which, by coincidence, was exactly the same as for the preceding year.

In an effort to give further variety in the provision of housing, the Council have encouraged the formation of a Housing Society by the very practical step of making land available for the erection of houses by the Society. This type of scheme is of particular benefit to persons who, due to their age, would have difficulty, although still working, in securing a mortgage. A Housing Society is able to obtain mortgages spread over a much longer period than any individual can obtain, and any participant is sure of being able to transfer the house he occupies back to the Society and obtain credit for payment of "rent" he has made during his occupancy. I am bound to say from my experience of this scheme that the administrative work required to obtain all the necessary approvals is far more than in my opinion is reasonable. For example, house plans have not only to obtain the normal consent from the local authority and the planning authority for Building Regulation and Planning purposes respectively, but are also subject to amendment by the Housing Corporation, and additionally the National Building Agency. This involves a needless occupation of scarce professional time, which can be extremely frustrating.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	167
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	206
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(3) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants

3

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year 1

(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above 12

(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation 12

(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. Nil

(5) Number of families displaced during the year 9

(6) Number of houses demolished during the year Nil

(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957.

(1) Houses made subject to closing Orders. Nil

WATER

For the first time the daily average water consumption of the district rose to above the one million gallons level. The distribution system proved capable of dealing with this daily increase of 62 thousand gallons, so that the available pressure remained satisfactory. Bacteriological sampling by the bulk supplier and ourselves invariably gave satisfactory results. All houses in the district now have an internal piped water supply. The pumping station and reservoir continued to give trouble-free service twenty-four hours a day throughout the twelve months, reflecting, I feel, credit upon your consulting engineers and the contractors for the soundness in design and workmanship of these units.

Due to the relatively mild winter no undue loss of water was experienced from burst services. The water has a natural fluorine content of between 0.11 and 0.18 parts per million, and at the present time no decision has been taken to increase this to the optimum proportions.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I commented last year upon the slowing down of work at our disposal works, pumping station, and relief sewers. The Sub-Committee appointed to exercise pressure to eliminate these delays had further meetings with the contractors and your engineers which were successful in so far as the contractors were made aware of the Council's dissatisfaction with the rate of progress achieved. I had hoped to be able to report that the contract was completed, but unfortunately this is not the case. The sewers are complete and several of the individual units forming part of the works expansion programme are in operation, but we are still without the use of the digestion tank with its associated heater house, recirculation station, and main pumping station. The new sedimentation tank, rectangular filter and humus tank, were handed over and these were of assistance in preventing further deterioration of the effluent, but completion of the outstanding items mentioned above is anxiously awaited.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A new vehicle capable of handling bulk refuse containers has been obtained in order to deal with refuse discharged into these containers by refuse chutes serving four-storey dwellings. This form of collection is economical in labour and also reduces the unsightly appearance of a large collection of small dustbins on premises where considerable volumes of refuse are produced. I felt that the advantages of the bulk container could be more widely used and therefore I asked the County Education authority to consider their installation in at least the larger schools in the district, so far without result. They have been installed, however, at a block of shops and a local Club, and a further installation is expected at one of the factories in the district.

In an endeavour to reduce the casual dumping of bulky articles, the Council authorised the inception of a bulky refuse collection scheme. The work is carried out on Saturday mornings by a driver and collector who cover a specified area. The occupier of each house in the area is warned during the preceding week that the vehicle will be calling, and they are asked, unless they are elderly persons, to assist in loading their bulky rubbish on to the lorry. The articles collected have ranged from motor cycles to three-piece suites, and there is no doubt that a large proportion of these would have otherwise found an unwelcome resting point elsewhere in this or some adjoining district. Up to three lorry loads of this material have been collected during one morning by two men in this manner. The service has proved very popular, and although normal refuse collection service has had to take priority on some weekends, approximately half the district has been covered.

At the end of the year negotiations were in progress for obtaining a tipping site within our own district. This has become more necessary as increases in tipping charges outside the district have reduced the economic advantages of such tips, and because the collection time lost whilst the vehicle was away at outside tips was lengthening, and would do so even more as those tips were moved further from the Urban District.

STREET SWEEPING

No emergency snow clearing was required during the year. The vacuum cleaning lorry continued to operate with relatively low maintenance costs. A hand-operated vacuum collector was obtained specifically to deal with large areas of paving around the new Stanground shopping centre and the "High Density" housing scheme, and proved successful in operation. This increase in areas to be swept necessitated the appointment of a part-time sweeping orderly in addition to the three full-time staff.

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 91 lbs. of cooked meat and meat products, and 1 cwt. 71 lbs. of other foods were condemned. Recurring complaints of mould on food stuffs dispensed from vending machines at a local factory eventually necessitated prosecution of the food vending contractor involved. This was successful, fines totalling £60. 0. 0. being imposed.

There was little change in the composition of the food trades represented in the district which are:

Works Canteens	..	..	5	
School Kitchens	..	..	4	
Fried Fish	..	..	7	
Butchers	..	..	6	
Grocery	..	..	34	
Licensed Premises	..	..	13	Total—69

The premises comply with the requirements of Sections 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of 1967 there were 43 premises within the Urban District which were covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking, the Act covers any office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner, is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 43 quoted above there were other premises covered by the Act where action was enforceable by the Inspector of Factories.

Altogether there are 447 persons employed in registered premises within the District. 18 contraventions of the Act were found on inspection, and all were dealt with informally.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

No new premises were licensed during the year, the number remaining at 24. An existing installation at the Police precincts was however considerably enlarged following the stationing of further vehicles on the premises.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine treatment of a considerable number of minor infestations was carried out, Warfarin being the poison used in the majority of cases, no resistance to this having yet been encountered.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

One application was received under Section 3 concerning the installation of new boiler plant, and the height of the chimney was agreed with the applicant.

Preliminary work was commenced with a view to declaring two further smoke control areas. These will cover two proposed Council estates on which some 80 and 227 dwellings respectively will be erected. It is hoped to receive confirmation of these areas next year.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	71
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	55
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	55

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

VISITS AND DISINFECTION

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
No. of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	74
Premises disinfected :—	(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	Nil
	(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Factories Act 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	6	Nil	Nil
Other Premises,	6	12	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		2		

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1967.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	1	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	3	|	|	|	39	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	13	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|
3 — 4	|	2	|	|	|	15	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	|	|	|	16	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	9	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	5	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	5	|	|	|	99	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	3	1	|
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

